

CHARLES L. DENMAN, UNITED STATES CONSUL AT
ACAPULCO.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

TRANSMITTING

*Documents in support of the application of the Consul at Acapulco for
reimbursement of money advanced to two American citizens, &c.*

FEBRUARY 28, 1856.—Read, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and ordered
to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 25, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a copy of a letter from Captain Thomas A. Dornin, of the United States navy, and of the documents referred to therein, respecting a claim of Charles L. Denman, United States consul at Acapulco, for relief afforded to two American citizens, by paying their passage from Acapulco to San Francisco.

There being no provision for the relief of American citizens, other than seamen, and no appropriation under the control of this department from which Mr. Denman's claim can be paid, it is respectfully submitted to Congress.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. L. MARCY.

Hon. N. P. BANKS, Jr.,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA,
December 31, 1855.

SIR: I beg leave to submit the accompanying documents, received recently by me from Charles L. Denman, United States consul at Acapulco.

Having a full knowledge of all the facts therein set forth, I feel it an imperative duty to respectfully invoke your favorable decision on the claim of the consul to be reimbursed the amount he so generously advanced to these two young Americans, the story of whose wrongs you were made acquainted with by our minister in Mexico.

I have only to add, that when I brought these young men down in the sloop-of-war Portsmouth, from the place of their shameful imprisonment, to the port of Acapulco, they found that place in a suffering and destitute condition, arising from the long investment by General Santa Anna, in person, together with the rigid blockade by his squadron; therefore they found it impossible to sustain themselves, and were compelled to seek aid from their consul, who set himself to work to secure them a passage in one of our mail-steamer to the port of San Francisco, for which he had to advance the amount he now claims.

The case of these young men was no ordinary one of distress; they were thrown into it by no imprudence or crime of their own; they were not in the pursuit of pleasure or gain, but were viewed by the consul, as well as myself, as Americans driven by oppression and a lawless use of power to such straits as seemed to warrant the pecuniary interposition of their immediate representative and national agent.

However, if I may be in error in this view of the matter, and that you should not feel warranted in authorizing the liquidation of the worthy consul's claim, I have only, then, to suggest, as it is very probable that these two young men will present themselves this winter to your department to urge their claims for damages, that this matter of the consul's advance for them may be brought to their notice, when, no doubt, they will readily adjust it.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS A. DORNIN,

Captain United States Navy.

HON. WILLIAM L. MARCY,

Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,

Acapulco, Mexico, November 6, 1855.

DEAR SIR: By advice of Commander S. Swartwout, of the steamship Massachusetts, I am induced to address you regarding the amount of two hundred dollars, as paid by me in the month of June, 1854, for the passage of the American citizens Snelling and Hulsemann. (See enclosed copy.)

As the Hon. William L. Marcy, Secretary of State, has suspended these vouchers, and as they were made in good faith by me, grounded, as I may say, to a certain extent, upon your representations, with a strong desire to assist our citizens, I trust you will call upon the Secretary in person, and by your instrumentality and influence have the same placed to my credit, which, in my opinion, under the circum-

stances, should be the case. Relying upon your friendly influences in the premises, I am, dear sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES L. DENMAN,

United States Consul.

Com. THOMAS A. DORNIN, *U. S. Navy, Washington.*

CHARLES L. DENMAN, *United States Consul,*

To PACIFIC MAIL Co.....Dr.

1854, June 6.—To one passage ticket, in second cabin, from this port to San Francisco, each, for Messrs. William W. Snelling and Louis Hulsemann, at \$100.....\$200 00

Received, Acapulco, Mexico, June 30, 1854, of Charles L. Denman, United States consul, two hundred dollars, in full of the above account.

\$200.

S. TYLER, *Agent.*

We, the undersigned, Messrs. William W. Snelling and Louis Hulsemann, do hereby acknowledge to have received from Charles L. Denman, United States consul, each one passage ticket from this port to San Francisco.

WILLIAM W. SNELLING.
L. HULSEMANN.

I hereby certify that the above account is accurate and just; that the tickets as set forth were purchased for the purpose as indicated, and the extraordinary circumstances, as will appear from the correspondence as appended to this voucher.

[SEAL.]

CHARLES L. DENMAN,
United States Consul.

UNITED STATES SHIP PORTSMOUTH,
Acapulco, June 2, 1854.

SIR: I brought to this port, from Mazatlan, Messrs. W. W. Snelling, Edgar Warren, and Louis Hulsemann, three citizens of the United States, who have been most unjustly seized and imprisoned at Guaymas, and sent, chained, from that port to Mazatlan, where, after some detention, they were released. Separated, however, suddenly from their business at Guaymas, they were deprived thereby of all they had, with the exception of a few dollars consumed in their maintenance during two months' detention at Mazatlan. Under these circumstances, and finding them thus destitute, I brought them to this port, trusting that your position as United States consul might war-

rant you in providing them a passage in one of our steamers to San Francisco.

Soliciting your friendly office in behalf of our unfortunate countrymen, I am, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

THOMAS A. DORNIN,
Commander.

CHARLES L. DENMAN, Esq.,
United States Consul, Acapulco.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Acapulco, Mexico.

I hereby certify that I have carefully compared the foregoing copy of a letter as received by me from Captain Thomas A. Dornin, commander of the United States sloop-of-war Portsmouth, and find it to be accurate and true as taken from the "Book of Official Correspondence," as will appear on reference to folio 415 of said record in this consulate.

Given under my official seal of office, on this the 30th June, 1854.

[L. S.]

CHARLES L. DENMAN,
United States Consul.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Acapulco, Mexico, June 5, 1854.

SIR: In reply to your note this day received, I beg to state that, although not within the strict letter of the consular instructions, it not only affords me pleasure, but I deem it a duty which our government owes to her citizens thus similarly circumstanced, to render them, through her representatives, such assistance as is compatible with the true spirit of her liberal institutions, thereby proving to foreign nations, particularly this republic, that our citizens are not thus to be dragged from their homes and incarcerated with impunity. I will, therefore, make the arrangements necessary to send the gentlemen as named by you to San Francisco in the next steamer, at the expense of our government, feeling an assurance that the course pursued by me will meet with the unqualified approbation of the honorable William L. Marcy, Secretary of State.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

CHARLES L. DENMAN,
United States Consul.

Captain THOMAS A. DORNIN,
Commander United States Sloop-of-war Portsmouth.

A true copy:

CHARLES L. DENMAN,
United States Consul.

Recorded in book of "Official Correspondence," folio 99.

ACAPULCO, *June 5, 1854.*

DEAR SIR: I will furnish the gentlemen mentioned in your note second cabin in the up steamer, provided there be room, of which I have no doubt, for one hundred dollars each.

The tickets cannot be issued, however, until after the arrival of the steamer, according to our rules.

In reference to the draft on Mexico, I should be happy to take it; but, unfortunately, there being no communication with that place, I must beg some other settlement. Drafts on San Francisco, endorsed by you, would be acceptable.

Very respectfully,

S. TYLER, *Agent.*

CHARLES L. DENMAN, Esq.,
United States Consul.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Acapulco, Mexico.

I hereby certify that I have carefully compared the foregoing copy of a letter, as received by me from Samuel Tyler, agent of the Pacific Mail Company, and find it to be accurate and true as taken from the "Book of Official Correspondence," as will appear on reference to folio 416 of said record in this consulate.

Given under my official seal of office, on this the 30th June, 1854.

[L. S.]

CHARLES L. DENMAN,
United States Consul.

